



# *News from* **SALEM COUNTY**

Office of Public Information

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## **HURRICANE IRENE CLEAN-UP EFFORTS CONTINUE IN SALEM COUNTY**

(SALEM, NJ)—Salem County is still in a State of Emergency as county and local governments continue their efforts to clean-up the effects of Hurricane Irene. Salem County still has a number of road closures due to flooding and possible bridge/road erosion.

“I want to commend the efforts of our first responders, emergency management personnel, volunteers and public works employees,” said Freeholder Director Lee Ware. “Hurricane Irene did have a significant impact in our County, and we are grateful that we were spared from the worst but were confident that our team was ready to respond to whatever Irene brought to our region. What we saw during this storm was our County coming together during the time of crisis; this is what makes Salem County great. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of the one victim of Irene in our area.”

CERT volunteers were an active part of the County’s response during the storm. At the core of CERT philosophy is “neighbor helping neighbor”. Participants in the program are given the tools they need to help themselves, their families, and their communities during times of disaster. In an emergency that taxes the resources of local emergency responders, CERT members can help stabilize situations in their communities until advanced help reaches them. In addition, CERT members are given numerous opportunities to train in a variety of emergency services related topics and to participate in community events.

“Our CERT volunteers were a tremendous asset in this event,” said Deputy Director David Lindenmuth, Chair of the County Public Safety Committee. “These volunteers cared for those in our shelters and assisted in preparing and managing the Hurricane’s effects. Our emergency management officials have praised their efforts because they made managing the storm more effective and efficient. The Freeholders join in the praise of these volunteers who left their homes and loved ones to assist their neighbors in a time of need. They join a host of other volunteers who demonstrated the power of compassion in action.”

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Public Works crews were managing the effects of the Hurricane until conditions became too dangerous for them to be dispatched. As soon as the storm subsided, crews went to work immediately to shut down roads and clean-up debris.

“We have a number of road closures and sustained another hit to our transportation infrastructure,” said Freeholder Bobbitt, Chair of the County Public Works Committee. “We are continuing to clean-up and assess the Hurricane’s impact in our area. Over the coming days, our Engineering and Public Works Departments will be evaluating all our bridges and dams, along with roadways. We will be working with emergency management officials to prepare our application to FEMA for assistance. I want to join in thanking all those who were involved in the community’s response to the Hurricane.”

The following is a list of road and bridge closures in Salem County:

<b>Town</b>	<b>Road</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Woodstown	Woodstown-Alloway Rd	Liberty Ave.	East Lake Rd.	Road Collapse
Woodstown	East Lake	Millbrook	S. Main	Flood
Mannington/CP	540	Pointers Auburn	Hawks Bridge	Flood
Mannington	Kings Highway	Hospital	Sharptown	Flood
Mannington	Kings Highway	Auburn Road	County Line	Flood
Woodstown	Eldridges Hill	Whig Lane	Lincoln	Flood
Woodstown	S. Main	Lotus	Ashbrook	Flood
Pilesgrove	Avis Mill	Fox	Woodstown/Daretown	Flood
Pilesgrove	County Home Road	Kings Hwy	45	Flood
Pittsgrove	Alvine Road	Area of 1070 Alvine		
Pittsgrove	Gershal Ave	Landis Ave	To Cumberland Co Line	Flood
Pittsgrove	Almond Road	Gershal	To Cumberland Co Line	Flood
Pittsgrove	Greenville Rd	Griers Lane	Olivet Road	Flood
Pittsgrove	Burlington	Sand Bridge	Eft	Flood
Pittsgrove	Centerton Road	Almond	540	Flood
Pittsgrove	Willow Grove Road			Flood
Pittsgrove	Almond Road	Centerton	Parvins Mill	Flood
Mannington	Compromise Road	45	Mannington-Yorktown	Flood
Mannington	Slapes Corner Auburn Rd	Haines Neck	Courses Landing	Flood
Mannington	Cemetery Road	Area of 911 Center		Bridge Washed
Out				
LAC	Pecks Corner-Harmersville	Area of Jericho Road		Trees with Wires
Elmer	S. Main	Dutch Row		Flooded at Lake
Upper Pittsgrove	Monroeville Rd	Area of Gloucester County Line		Downed trees
Upper Pittsgrove	Daretown Aldine at Camp	Grice		Trees/Wires
Carneys Point	Penns Grove-Auburn	Quillytown	Stumpy Lane	Flood
Carneys Point	Penns Grove - Auburn	Stumpy Lane	Pointers Auburn	Flood

Salem County opened two shelters during the Hurricane, which were located at Schalick High School and Salem Community College. Schalick High School’s shelter was closed late Sunday, while the Salem Community College shelter closed on Monday morning.

Salem County Department of Health has dispatched Food Inspectors to businesses in Penns Grove, Carneys Point, and Pennsville. The Food Inspectors are mainly inspecting businesses that lost power to ensure that proper food precautions are being taken.

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Additionally, Health Department officials are going to the Salem Community College shelter to educate personnel and evacuees on communicable diseases.

“Following any significant event there are always health concerns,” said Freeholder Dale Cross, Chair of the County Health Committee. “Our Public Health Department is working with State, County, and local officials to educate our public, respond to emergent health needs, and provide additional resources. We are taking proactive measures to ensure the health of our residents.”

During the Hurricane, the County utilized various resources to communicate with the public, including: the reverse 911 system, a new twitter account, and a new active blog. The blog had over 6,000 hits throughout the Hurricane and was updated regularly with real-time information.

“Our County team spent many hours preparing for what could happen,” said Director Ware. “This Hurricane could have been worse, but I believe it demonstrated that whatever might happen—we are prepared. We utilized various resources to help ensure public safety, and we had a great team approach to this emergency.”

The County Administration Committee will be meeting with officials from Public Works, Emergency Management, and Engineering on Tuesday to begin assessing the financial impact of Hurricane Irene. Preliminary figures will be released on Tuesday afternoon.

“The financial impact of the Hurricane will change as we continue to deal with changing issues with our waterways,” said Freeholder Bobbitt. “We will continue to be proactive and responsible with our response.”

While Salem County’s travel restrictions are no longer in place, residents should be advised that municipalities may have travel restrictions in place and should check with their local emergency management officials for more information.